

Message Text

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21

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

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FM USLO PEKING

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4945

INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

C O N F I D E N T I A L PEKING 2465

E.OJAQQYTWC GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, CH

SUBJECT KANG SHENG FUNERAL - A NON-EVENT FOR SOVIET BLOC EMBASSIES

REF: (A) HONG KONG 15026 (NOTAL), (B) PEKING 2424 (NOTAL)

(C) PEKING 2447 (NOTAL)

1. THE USSR AND SATELLITE EMBASSIES (POLAND, EAST GERMANY, GZECHOSLOVAKIA, HUNGARY, BULGARIA, MONGOLIA), ALL OF WHICH HAD SENT REPRESENTATIVES LAST APRIL TO SIGN THE BOOK OF CONDOLENCES ON THE DEATH OF TUNG PI-WU, POINTEDLY DID NOT MAKE THE SAME GESTURE ON THE DEATH OF KANG SHENG, THOUGH WE UNDERSTAND THAT MFA ROUTINELY NOTIFIED THEM, ALONG WITH OTHER EMBASSIES,
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OF THE OPPORTUNITY TO SIGN.

2. THIS BOYCOTT MAY CHIEFLY REFLECT THE SOVIET BLOC'S DIS-
PLEASURE WITH PEKING'S RATHER PROVOCATIVE USE OF THE DEATH
OF KANG AS A VEHICLE FOR ANTI-SOVIET PROPAGANDA. HOWEVER, A SOVIET
EMBASSY OFFICIAL IMPLIED TO US ON DECEMBER 23 THAT EVEN
WITHOUT THE ANTI-SOVIET THEMES HIS "FRATERNAL" EMBASSIES
MIGHT STILL NOT HAVE EXTENDED CONDOLENCES ON KANG'S DEATH.
"WE HAVE NO REASON TO MOURN HIM," THE OFFICIAL SAID, AND
WENT ON TO DEPICT KANG AS HAVING BEEN CONSISTENTLY, SINCE THE
1940'S, ONE OF CHINA'S MAIN SOVIET-HATERS.

3. THE SOVIET OFFICIAL ALSO ARGUED THAT KANG'S PASSING HAS
SERIOUSLY WEAKENED THE RADICAL (AND BY IMPLICATION THE ANTI-
SOVIET) WING OF THE CCP. HE SAID MAO HIMSELF MUST HAVE
COMMANDED THE RETURN FROM SHANGHAI OF PARTY
VICE CHAIRMAN WANG HUNG-WEN TO PRESIDE OVER THE MEMORIAL
CEREMONY, AND THAT THIS WAS AN "ACT OF DESPERATION," TO BOLSTER
SUPPORT FOR MAO'S RADICAL (AND BY IMPLICATION ANTI-SOVIET) POLICIES.
USLO OFFICER COMMENTED THAT WANG'S REAPPEARANCE IN PEKING FOR
THIS EVENT DID NOT OF ITSELF SEEM ESPECIALLY SIGNIFICANT TO US, IN
VIEW OF (1) HIS HAVING ALSO PRESIDED LAST APRIL OVER MEMORIAL
CEREMONY FOR TUNG PI-WU, AND (2) THE OBVIOUS VALUE TO THE PRC
OF DEMONSTRATING PARTY UNITY ON AN OCCASION SUCH AS THIS.

4. AS FOR USLO'S NOT HAVING SIGNED THE CONDOLENCE BOOK ON
KANG'S DEATH, WE EXPLAINED TO THE SOVIET OFFICIAL
(AS TO THE FEW JOURNALISTS AND OTHERS WHO HAVE ASKED) THAT MFA
DID NOT OFFER US THE OPPORTUNITY TO DO SO.
THAYER

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